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News Archive - May 2005

5-31 Keegan Slates Leenane for Church Street in June

[The Keegan Theatre](#) has announced a shift in its lineup, changing both the dates and the play for their last show of the 2004-05 season. Instead of *Death of a Salesman* being presented in July/August, they will present Martin McDonagh's *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* at the Church Street Theatre from June 23 to July 23. Mark A. Rhea will direct. The company will use the space on the off nights of the run to present the two-performer show which played fringe festivals in Ireland and Scotland, *Disco Pigs*.

5-27 Plays & Playwrights Announced For Baltimore Festival

Since 1982, the community theaters of Baltimore have joined forces to showcase new works by local playwrights in an annual festival. It began with three theaters – Vagabond, Fell's Point and Corner – and has grown to include Spotlighters, Mobtown, Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts, Goucher College, Uncommon Voices, Arena, Axis, Harbour, Avalon, Director's Choice, and Paragon Theatres. This year the festival will run from June 10 through August 28 with performances at five different theaters. Full information will be available at the festival's website at www.baltimoreplaywrightsfestival.org. Here's the lineup:

- June 10 – 26: *Ouch* by Joe Dennison and *The Marginal Man* by Greg Jenkins at the Mobtown Players, 3600 Clipper Mill Road.
- June 23 – July 10: *Blue Mermaid* by Mark Scharf at Fell's Point Corner Theatre, 251 South Ann Street.
- July 21 – August 7: *\$Forty Million, If You Want It* by Stephen LaRocque at Fell's Point Corner Theatre.
- July 22 – August 7: *Socks* by Rosemary Frisino Toohey and *Holidays In* by Jim Sheridan at Run of the Mill Theatre in Mobtown, 3600 Clipper Mill Road.
- July 22 – 31: *Myron and Evelyn* by Daniel Mont at Vagabond Players, 806 S. Broadway.
- August 5 – 27: *Get Stuffed* by Mark Scharf and *Cornered* by Rosemary Fisino Toohey at the Audrey Herman Spotlighters Theatre, 817 St. Paul Street.
- August 11 – 28: *The Best Christmas Murder Ever* by Ron Holsey at the Uncommon Voices Theatre Company at Fell's Point Corner Theatre, 251 South Ann Street.
- August 19 – 28: *Real to Reel* by C. J. Crowe at Chesapeake Center for the Creative Arts, 194 Hammonds Lane, Brooklyn Park

5-26 Hathaway and Levine's Just Theatre Now Available Online

The television show *Just Theater* on which Potomac Stages' Brad Hathaway and Montgomery Community Television critic Faiga Levine discuss three currently running shows, has been available only to subscribers of the cable system in Montgomery County. Now it is available online for anyone with broadband internet connection on a computer equipped to display streaming video. To access the program on most computers, enter the following in the address bar of the internet browser: <http://abletv.servsite.com:8000/content/cpcug/thoopengardner/just-theater-current.smil>. Alternatively,

visit <http://64.226.56.82/vidiomontgomery/index.html> and select the *Just Theater* program from the menu.

5-25 Teatro de la Luna Receives AAUW's Campbell Award

This year's recipient of the [Elizabeth Campbell Award](#) for Advancement of the Arts in Arlington VA has gone to Teatro de la Luna's Mario Marcel. The award, named for the founder of WETA who died last year at the age of 101, is sponsored by the Arlington Branch of the American Association of University Women. The citation lauds the accomplishments of Teatro de la Luna with specific mention of the International Festival of Hispanic Theatre which the company mounts each year, drawing participation from theaters throughout Latin America and Spain.

5-24 Rare Recordings and Film Clips of Harold Arlen Songs Presented at the Library of Congress

In honor of the centenary of the birth of composer Harold Arlen, the National Film Registry will screen vintage clips and play some rare audio of his songs in a presentation titled, as one of his songs was, *Happy as the Day is Long* this Friday at 7 pm in the Mary Pickford Theater. The video will include clips from the 1964 CBS television program *The Songs of Harold Arlen* and a performance by Judy Garland of his classic "The Man That Got Away" from the film *A Star is Born* from 1954. The theater is on the third floor of the James Madison Building of the Library of Congress on Independence Avenue between First and Second Streets SE. Admission is free but the theater seats only 60, so reservations are suggested. They can be made by calling 202-707- 5677.

5-23 Young Playwrights Works Take Woolly Stage Today and Tonight - For Free

The culmination of the ninth year of the The Art of Playmaking, the program that gets students in DC schools involved in playwriting, will be today's readings by professional actors of the seven winning short plays drawn from the entries of 130 participating students from four schools. The project is part of the education and outreach program of the [Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company](#) and Woolly's Senior Associate Director will co-direct the readings along with Clay Hopper. This year's program involved students from Anne Beers Elementary, Ballou Senior High, Hine Junior High and St. Francis Xavier Catholic School. Two sessions are scheduled at Woolly Mammoth's new theater at 7th and D Streets NW, one at 11 this morning and one at 7:30 this evening. Admission is free but reservations are recommended. They can be made by calling 202-289-2443x525.

5-23 McElroy Out/Rogers and van Griethuysen In For Ford's Reading Tonight

The cast for tonight's free staged reading at [Ford's](#) of Ossie Davis' *Purlie Victorious* will not include Michael McElroy, as previously announced, but will feature a number of artists familiar to Potomac Region audiences. Kenyatta Rogers will play the title part. Here's the rest of the line up and the parts they will read: Erika Rose - Lutiebelle, Kim Bey - Missy, Jefferson Russell - Gitlow, Jennifer Nelson - Idella, Kip Pierson - Charlie Cotchipee, Ted van Griethuysen - Ol' Cap'n Cotchipee, Timmy Ray James - The Sheriff, and Clinton Brandhagen - The Deputy.

5-20 Ford's Pays Tribute To Ossie Davis With Reading of Purlie Victorious Monday Night

Michael McElroy will lead a free staged reading of Ossie Davis' play *Purlie Victorious* at Ford's Theatre on Monday. It is the off night of the current production of [Big River](#) in which he plays the runaway slave Jim, a part which earned him a Tony Award nomination in the Broadway revival featuring both hearing and deaf performers. Davis, who died last February, wrote the play and starred in it with his wife Ruby Dee on Broadway in 1961. It was one of a dozen performances on Broadway for the actor/writer. The play also was later the basis for the musical *Purlie*. No tickets are required for the 7:30 pm performance but seats may be reserved by calling 202-434-9545. Doors open at 6:30.

5-19 Mamma Mia! Cast Sing National Anthem at Nats Game - Ten of the cast members from the touring company of [Mamma Mia!](#) will sing the "Star-Spangled Banner" before this afternoon's game between the Washington Nationals and the Milwaukee Brewers at RFK Stadium. Game time is 1:05. *Mamma Mia!* opened Tuesday evening at the National Theatre. The production is scheduled to run through July 2.

5-18 Round House Offers A Taste of Vino For Its Fund Raiser

[Round House Theatre](#) holds its Education and Outreach Programs fund raiser tomorrow evening at the McLean Gardens Ballroom in NW. The \$200 per ticket event features a half dozen celebrity sommoliers who will share notable Italian wines in a presentation Round House titles Grape Performances II - Bravo Italia. This is a reference to the fact that this is the second year the Round House Education and Outreach fundraiser has been built around a wine-centered theme.

Last year the event concentrated on New Zealand and Australian wines. Tickets can be ordered by calling 240-644-1405.

5-17 Arena Stage Sets Costume and Prop Sale for Saturday

This Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm, Arena Stage will hold its version of a garage sale. Props, costumes, even theatrical lights will be on sale to the general public in the lobby of the Fichandler on a cash and carry basis (not even credit cards accepted.) It is the first time in three years that Arena has held a sale to clear out its storage space. Among the items to be sold are the miniature houses from the set for [Señor Discretion Himself](#), the wooden cannon used in [A Man's A Man](#), the carved piano from [The Piano Lesson](#) and the couch from the living room set for [The Goat or Who is Sylvia?](#) Since there is a 2:00 pm matinee on Saturday in the Kreeger (the Potomac Stages Pick [Anna Christie](#)) parking at the theater for the sale will only be available until noon.

5-16 Will Award Goes To Jeremy Irons Tonight

Jeremy Irons adds a William Shakespeare Award for significant contribution to classical theater in America to his Tony (for *The Real Thing*) and Oscar (for *Reversal of Fortune*) awards at tonight's Gala at the National Building Museum (the former Pension Building.) The award is given by the Shakespeare Theatre. Irons joins a distinguished list of recipients which includes Dame Judi Dench, Hal Holbrook, Patrick Stewart, Mel Gibson, Christopher Plummer, Sir Anthony Hopkins and Dame Maggie Smith. Proceeds from the event, tickets to which range from \$500 to \$25,000, support the Shakespeare Theatre's Free-For-All at Carter Barron and other programs.

5-13 Hathaway and Levine's Just Theater Covers Beauty, Hanna and Martin and Curves

The May edition of the Montgomery Community Television program **Just Theater** featuring Potomac Stages' Brad Hathaway and Channel 21's Faiga Levine will air twice a week on Channel 21, on Wednesdays at 8 pm and Fridays at 4:30 pm. The topics of conversation this month are Toby's Dinner Theatre's [Beauty and the Beast](#), Theater J's [Hannah and Martin](#) and GALA Hispanic Theatre's [Real Women Have Curves](#).

5-12 Warehouse Benefit This Saturday Will Fund New Lights

They are calling it "Light Up The Warehouse" as over a hundred paintings, sculptures and photographs have been donated for Saturday night's benefit to raise money for new theatrical lights for the [Warehouse Theater](#). The event, to be held at the Warehouse on 7th Street NW, will be unique in that everyone buying a "Sponsor" ticket for \$150 will take home one of the donated pieces of art. "Sponsor" tickets also allow the holder to bring a guest for \$50, while regular admission is \$100. The event will include dinner, drinks, music, a live and a silent auction. Tickets can be ordered by calling 202-783-3933.

5-11 Tony Nominations Go To Two Performances That Began Here

The Tony Award nominations announced yesterday included two for performances that Potomac Region audiences saw before they headed to Broadway. James Earl Jones was nominated for Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Play for his work in the revival of [On Golden Pond](#) which premiered at the Kennedy Center last September. Amy Ryan was nominated for Best Performance by a Featured Actress for her portrayal of Stella Kowalski in the revival of [A Streetcar Named Desire](#) after having played the same role here in the Kennedy Center's Tennessee Williams Explored series last May. In addition, Marc Kudisch, who performed at Monday night's Helen Hayes Award ceremony as a nominee for his work in Signature Theatre's [The Highest Yellow](#), has been nominated for the Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical Tony Award for his new show, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* which opened last month.

5-10 Work At Eleven Theatres Share 26 Helen Hayes Awards

Last night's 21st Annual Helen Hayes Awards saw awards in twenty-three categories given for work in 15 different shows. Multiple winners included Signature Theatre with five, The Shakespeare Theatre with four, both Folger and Round House three and Arena, the Kennedy Center and the National Theatre each having two. Those with a single award were the African Continuum Theatre Company, MetroStage, Studio Theatre, Synetic Theater and Toby's Dinner Theatre. Shows with multiple awards were *Cyrano* (4) *Allegro* (3) *The Diary of Anne Frank* (3) *Movin' Out*, *The Producers* and *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* with two each. [Click here to see the full list of winners.](#)

5-9 Helen Hayes Awards Tonight

E. Faye Butler will host this year's Helen Hayes Award ceremony tonight at the Warner Theatre. The ceremony will be followed by the traditional Gala which this year will be at the J. W. Marriott hotel. The ceremony is returning to the Warner after a number of years being held at the Kennedy Center. Check here tomorrow morning for the list of winners.

5-6 Einstein Solo Show Offered Free Tomorrow At GMU

Traveling actor Tom Schuch will perform the solo-performer bio-play *Einstein: A Stage Portrait* at 2 and 8 pm tomorrow in a lecture hall at George Mason University in Fairfax. The play is set in 1946, just after the atomic bombing of Japan, as Dr. Einstein looks back on his life, his career and his impact on science and human history. The performances are free and will take place in Lecture Hall #1.

5-5 ArtSpeak! Adds Audra To The Schedule For June

To most theater lovers, the name "Audra" is sufficient to identify Audra McDonald, four-time Tony Award winner who has excelled in both musicals and dramas. ArtSpeak!, the free program which brings top theater celebrities to Annandale's Poe Middle School to respond to questions from host Mark Shugoll, from the audience and also from a student from either Poe Middle School or its sister school Annandale High School, has announced that their final guest for this season will be none other than Ms. McDonald. She has won Tony Awards for Best Featured Actress in a Play for *Master Class* and *A Raisin In The Sun* and Best Featured Actress in a Musical for *Carousel* and *Ragtime*. Following in the footsteps of her co-stars from *Ragtime*, Brian Stokes Mitchell and Marin Mazie, who have each appeared in ArtSpeak! programs, she will be the guest at a special Saturday noon session on June 11.

5-4 Arena Announces Cast for Return of Crowns

This summer's run of *Crowns* will feature an entirely new cast. Arena Stage mounted the play from December of 2003 to February of 2004 and then brought it back for a summer run in July and August of 2004. This year, the run of *Crowns* will be July 5 - August 7 in the Kreeger. *Crowns* won the 2004 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical, Regina Taylor won the Outstanding Director of a Musical award, and William F. Hubbard won for Outstanding Musical Direction. Dianne McIntyre's choreography was also nominated. Four in the cast were nominated as well, Lynda Gravatt, Tom McKenzie, Tina Fabrique and Bernardine Mitchell. Gravatt won the award for Outstanding Supporting Actress. This time, however, the production will be directed and choreographed by Marion J. Caffey. The new cast will feature Rob Barnes, Gretta Boston, Roz Beauty Davis, LaVon D. Fisher, Angela Karol Grove, Joy Lynn Matthews and Barbara D. Mills. e'Marcus Harber who was featured on keyboards in the original production returns and takes on musical direction duties. [Click here to read our review of the original production.](#)

5-3 And The Ushers' Monthly Favorite Show Award Goes To . . . Ten Unknowns

The theater enthusiasts who usher in the theaters in the Potomac Region, and who participate in the [Ushers' Favorite Show Award](#) program sponsored by Potomac Stages, have named the [Signature Theatre](#) production of [Ten Unknowns](#), the intellectual drama by Jon Robin Baitz which was directed by Signature's new Associate Artistic Director, Rick DesRochers, as their favorite show for the month of April. Signature thus becomes the first theater company since the inception of the award to win for four different shows. Previous Signature winners were [Allegro](#) (January, 2004) [The Highest Yellow](#) (November, 2004) and [Fallen From Proust](#) (January, 2005).

5-2 Lawrence Redmond Guests at Artspeak! Tonight

Local actor Lawrence Redmond is tonight's guest at the free ArtSpeak! program, which brings top theater celebrities to Annandale's Poe Middle School to respond to questions from host Mark Shugoll, from the audience and also from a student from either Poe Middle School or its sister school Annandale High School. Redmond won Helen Hayes Awards for Outstanding Lead Actor in Signature Theatre's *No Way to Treat a Lady* and Outstanding Supporting Actor in their production of *The Rink*. He was nominated for four more Hayes awards including one for his role as Luther Billis in Arena Stage's [South Pacific](#). He has appeared at Olney Theatre Center, the Shakespeare Theatre, Studio Theatre and Theater J and is currently appearing at the Folger in [The Clandestine Marriage](#). The free program, which is open to students and their families as well as the general public, has featured local celebrities such as Sherri L. Edelin and Donna Migliaccio and Broadway greats such as Brian Stokes Mitchell, Melissa Errico and Kristen Chenoweth. The program begins at 7.

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